

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 NSC-10 OMB-01 AGR-20 SS-15 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 IGA-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 H-02 STR-08

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DRAFTED BY EA/ PHL: THWALSH/ NSC: JFROEBE: PAW/ EM

06/15/73 X 21669

APPROVED BY EA: HHBARGER

EA/ PHL: REUSHER

AID/ ASIA/ EA: WHALL (SUBS)

AID/ C/ FFP: PSTRONG (SUBS)

WHITE HOUSE: JFROEBE

OMB: PDUSAULT (SUBS)

USDA: MR. DELAPLANE (SUBS)

S/ S: HBARNES

(SUBS)

----- 107527

R 160048 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, US, RP

SUBJ: MARCOS LETTER TO VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW ABOUT RICE

REF: MANILA 5492 , STATE 115785

1. EMBASSY CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT NO DIRECT REPLY HAS
BEEN MADE TO MARCOS LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 7 TO VICE PRESI-
DENT AGNEW CONCERNING PHILIPPINE NEED FOR PL-480 RICE.
AS EMBASSY AWARE, ALL FUTURE PL-480 RICE COMMITMENTS
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MUST BE MADE OUT OF AS YET UNHARVESTED 1973 CROP. EARLIEST SHIPMENTS OUT OF 1973 CROP EXPECTED TO GO TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WHERE HAVE CRITICAL NEED. THEREFORE ANY RICE THAT MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE FOR PHILIPPINES COULD NOT IN ALL PROBABILITY BE SHIPPED UNTIL EARLY CY 1974.

2. EMBASSY MAY INFORM GOP AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT WE APOLOGIZE FOR DELAY IN REPLYING TO PRESIDENT MARCOS' REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PL-480 RICE. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, MADE AN EXTENSIVE AND EXHAUSTIVE EFFORT TO FIND A WAY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GOP NEEDS. WITH MUCH REGRET, WE MUST SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP NO PRACTICABLE MEANS TO ASSIST GOP IN MEETING THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM:

-- U. S. IS ALSO CONFRONTED WITH SHORTAGE OF RICE. WE HAVE VIRTUALLY EXHAUSTED CURRENT STOCKS OF RICE AVAILABLE

FOR EXPORT, AND OUR WORKING STOCKS HERE AT HOME THIS SUMMER WILL FALL BELOW WHAT IS CONSIDERED A BARE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT. EARLIEST POSSIBLE AVAILABLE RICE FOR EXPORT TO PHILIPPINES UNFORTUNATELY WILL ONLY BE AFTER NEXT U. S. RICE HARVEST IS COMPLETED AT END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

-- INVESTIGATION OF SUPPLIES OF OTHER PL-480 COMMODITIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN OF ASSISTANCE IN MEETING IMMEDIATE GOP NEEDS SHOWS THAT NONE OF THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT PRESENT EITHER.

3. YOU SHOULD ASSURE GOP OFFICIALS THAT U. S. IS KEENLY AWARE OF PHILIPPINES' PRESSING NEEDS, BUT THAT WE ARE SEVERELY CONSTRAINED BY LIMITED AVAILABILITIES. NEVERTHELESS, GOP MAY BE SURE THAT, IF RICE OR OTHER POSSIBLY USEFUL COMMODITIES BECOME AVAILABLE, WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HELP ALLEVIATE ANY CONTINUING RICE SHORTAGE. TO THIS END, USG WILL REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH GOP REGARDING OUR COOPERATION IN HELPING COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING EMBASSY'S CONTINUING ASSESSMENT OF PHILIPPINES RICE SITUATION AND NEED FOR U. S. ASSISTANCE ON THIS PROBLEM, AS WELL AS EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS OF POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF RESPONDING
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TO SUCH PHILIPPINE NEEDS. ROGERS

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